

Extended MVUM Frequently Asked Questions

What to do if I find a downed tree or a washout area?

Report it to one of the Forest Service offices, or to a Forest Service employee you may meet in the woods.

If we find a downed tree can we cut it and get it out of the way?

You may cut a downed tree that is blocking a road or trail.

Can we stop and have a picnic, can we use a grill? **Yes**

What is the speed limit?

25 mph unless posted otherwise.

Can we ride after dark?

Yes, with proper lighting following state of Michigan ORV regulations.

Can we camp over night?

Yes. One restriction includes no longer than 14 days in one location.

When do the trails open and close?

Trails are open from May 15 to March 15th annually.

How do we know what trails we can ride?

By referencing our Motor Vehicle Use Maps, published yearly. These maps are free from any Forest Service Office.

What do the MVUM road signs look like (I am always asked to explain what they look like)

A flat brown post or “rail” with road number identified and possibly universal decal symbols on what type of motorized use is allowed.

Why are there trails on the map that say ORV can go on them but they are blocked with a big mound of dirt or a gate?

The big mound of dirt is called a “berm”. If the road allows for ORV use, these berms or gates are designed to prevent trucks and cars from traveling down the road, but allowing ORV’s to pass.

Are points of interest marked with signs?

Not always.

Where's the nearest rest stop with an outhouse?

This varies by road and area, but OHV’s are not allowed in Forest Service campgrounds.

Can we ride on snowmobile trails?

Only when the trail is designated as multi-use by the State of Michigan

Are all Ontonagon County roads open, if not what is closed?

All county roads in Ontonagon County are open to OHV's except the South Boundary Road.

How about other counties on the MI-TRALE map?

Refer to individual counties for their regulations on OHV use on county jurisdiction roads.

Do you use paved roads for OHV travel, and why?

We do not currently use paved roads for OHV travel. There are very few paved roads under Forest Service jurisdiction, and due to safety concerns.

Do you have to ride on the pavement or can you ride on the shoulder?

There are no paved roads open to OHV under Forest Service jurisdiction. Refer to individual counties for their regulations on OHV use on county jurisdiction roads.

How do you get into the areas that have gas, legally?

Stay on the designated trails/roads or trailer to these areas. Refer to Forest Service MVUM map available for free from any Forest Service office on possible access routes.

What is the MVUM and how do I read the thing?

Motor Vehicle Use Map, which is the map that shows how and when motor vehicle use is permitted on the forest. One can read the map by referencing the legend and key.

How do I report an accident?

Dial 911

Where do I get a map?

You can pick up our MVUM maps at any Ottawa National Forest office free of charge.